

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

319 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410.638.3373 Voice/TTY 410.803.0433 Fax
disability@harfordcountymd.gov

Meeting Minutes January 24, 2011

Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Niki Biggs	Amy Axel	Joan Loftus
Bob Coen	Susan Austin	
Helene Dubay	Keith England	
Reverend Ellison	Councilman Guthrie	
Kathy Halliday	Steve Sopol	
Laurie Kwiedorowicz		
Mike Mathias		
Ben Mayforth		
Tracy Moore		
Marc Weinstein		
Andrea Wiley		

- I. Chairperson Marc Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the October 25, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Membership: The names of all Commissioners will be forwarded to the County Council for re-appointment. Members are asked to provide an updated Board and Commission application for the file. An electronic copy of the application will be sent to all members tomorrow. Applications may be emailed, faxed to 410-803-0433, or mailed via U.S. Mail to the Dept. of Community Services.
 - B. Accessibility Committee:
 1. Housing: The Commission will co-sponsor a Fair Housing Month training on Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library. Other co-sponsors are the Harford County Human Relations Commission, the Harford County Housing Agency, and Baltimore Neighborhoods,

- Inc. The Commission Chairperson will be asked to make welcoming remarks at this free event.
2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.
 3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests for waiver have been received.
 4. Ramps Program: Bob Coen reported that Habitat's Executive Director, Joann Blewett, informed him that two additional ramp applications have been approved, but are delayed due to lack of funds. Habitat is seeking additional funding sources.
 5. Operation Access: Commission Chairperson Marc Weinstein appeared on episode of Harford Cable Network's "Inside Harford" on December 9, 2010. The topic was the impact of the holiday season on different populations. Marc discussed accessible parking at shopping centers and malls, being friendly and welcoming to all people, and that persons with disabilities probably experience depression, loneliness and other holiday stress at the same rate as the general population.
- C. Education Committee: The next Expo Planning Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The committee will discuss the date/time/location of the 2012 Expo for Transitioning Youth. Committee chairperson, Helene Dubay, will share information generated at the meeting with student representative, Ben Mayforth, for his input and suggestions.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee
1. Web page: Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services is the "spotlighted" agency on the Commission's web page.
 2. Legislative Committee:
 - Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz presented the attached first review of disability-related legislation before the Maryland General Assembly.
 - The Commission's Legislative Guide is available at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/links.cfm#legislative>.
- E. Transportation Committee: Sharon Grzanka reported that a Train the Trainer presentation on using Harford Transit services was held on January 14, with additional presentations

scheduled for February 8, 2011 at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library and on February 18, 2011 at the Harford Community Action Agency. General Harford Transit information sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at the Transportation Management Association meeting and the Children's Mental Health Roundtable. Train the Trainer sessions may be scheduled by contacting Sharon at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY or at disability@harfordcountymd.gov . The next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School."

F. Voice of the Disability Community

1. Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions on Disabilities: The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2011 in Anne Arundel County. Sharon will forward information on the meeting to Reverend Ellison.
2. Maryland Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF): A press release on the upcoming MYLF was issued with a quote from MYLF alumni Ben Mayforth. One inquiry about applying has been received.
3. Jurisdictional Planning Group (JPG): The Harford County Citizen Corps Council received an award from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency for its Emergency Preparedness Month activities which included emergency preparedness information for persons with disabilities and a raffle of a "Go-Kit" at the branches of the Harford County Public Library and at the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Inc., Keypoint Health, and Upper Bay Counseling and Services.

G. Employment Committee: Co-chair Niki Biggs reported that:

1. Benefits counseling for persons with disabilities who receive Social Security benefits who wish to return to work are available through the Ticket to Work program. More information is available at <http://harfordmentalhealth.org/ticket-to-work> .
2. For information on a webinar on employment of adults with autism: <http://www.php.com/adult-autism-employment-introduction-webinar-dr-scott-standifier> .

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon reported that she will be working from home and taking Family and Medical Leave beginning

this week. Contact her via email or leave a voicemail on her office phone, 410-638-3373 voice/TTY. She also thanked Commissioners Laurie Kwiedorowicz and Andrea Wiley for serving on the Harford County Citizen Review Board, reviewing and making recommendations on FY2012 Grant-in-Aid applications.

V. Old Business: None.

VI. New Business: Fair Housing Month event. See III.B.1. above.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements:

A. A photo of Kevin Racine appeared in a Baltimore Sun article about transportation. Kevin has missed some recent Commission meetings because he has been appointed to an advisory committee to the Havre de Grace City Council which also meets on the fourth Monday of the month.

B. Niki Biggs announced that the Community Resource Fair will be held on Friday, April 1, 2011, in the evening at Bel Air High School. More information to follow.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

2011 Legislative Review
As of 24 Jan 11

HB 14: Health Insurance- Medically Underserved Areas and Populations; Reimbursement for covered Services Rendered by Telemedicine.

Requires specific health insurance carriers to reimburse health care providers for covered services provided by telemedicine to an insured person in a medically underserved area or population. The term telemedicine refers to services provided by remote review of diagnostic information, real-time or 2-way audio/video communication between a patient and health care provider, and other remotely provided patient services. A medically underserved area or population is one designated by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty, or a high elderly population.

HB 15: Health Insurance-Participation in Health Insurance systems and Plans- Freedom of Choice.

Providing individuals with the freedom to choose and participate in a private health insurance or plan. Also allows an individual to have the right to pay for lawful medical services without interference. Also prohibits penalties, taxes, fees, and fines from being levied for declining to contract for health insurance coverage or for participating in a particular health insurance system or plan.

HB 58: Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission- extension of termination date.

Proposes to extend the date of termination from 30 September 2011 to 30 September 2016.

SB 12: Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force- Reconstitution.

Re-establishes the task force, prohibits members from receiving compensation (but not reimbursement), and requires the task force to make findings and recommendations regarding the minimum sound levels and sound characteristics to be required for all new vehicles sold and registered in the state. This proposal might meet resistance from vehicle manufacturers and dealers who may be unable to comply with the recommendations or might not want to fund further add-ons to their vehicles.

SB 22: Election Law- Campaign Advertisements- Closed Captioning.

Requires campaign finance entities to provide closed captioning in advertisements distributed by broadcast, cable TV, or on the internet. Note

there is limited applicability (only certain state positions) and a waiver process based on undue hardship, which is loosely defined.

*This document is available in alternative format upon request:
410-638-3373 voice/TTY or disability@harfordcountymd.gov.*